

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 84-86, 88-93 and 95-106 and objected to claims 107. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 84 and 101, canceled claim 107 and added new claims 108 and 109. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 104 suggesting that it reads “(previously presente)d n assembly”. Our records suggest that claim 104 does not read this way. Applicants believe that this phrasing of claim 104 may have been caused by electronic transmission of the previous response. The claim as currently submitted reads properly.

II. Claim Rejections 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims 101-103 as being indefinite. Without acquiescing in this rejection, Applicants have amended claim 101 to overcome the rejection.

III. Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

The Office Action rejected claims 84-86, 88-93 and 95-106 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious and unpatentable over Delmastro (6,354,623) in view of one or more of Kelman et al. (5,364,159); Brannon (5,443,775) and Speelman (US 2002/0153741).

Allowable Subject Matter

Without acquiescing in the rejections of claims 84-86, 88-90, 104 and 106, Applicants have amended claim 84 to include the language of claim 107, which was

indicated as allowable. Applicants respectfully request an indication of allowance of claim 84 and its dependents.

Traversal

Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 91 and 101 and their dependents. Applicants have traversed these rejections previously and incorporate their previous arguments herein by reference. Applicants respond to arguments of the Office Action below.

The Office Action argues, at pages 9 and 10 thereof, that Delmastro contemplates “tongue and groove fits” and, therefore, it would have been obvious to employ the interlocks of Kelman in place of the “tongue and groove fits” of Delmastro. However, the “tongue and groove fits” of Delmastro are not specifically recited as being mechanical interlocks. Rather, the “fits” of Delmastro could just as easily be contours that are designed to assist in ultrasonic welding or the like without actually forming a mechanical interlock. Thus, there is no suggestion that such interlocks would be desired for Delmastro.

The Office Action also argues, at page 10 thereof, that “the discussion of different material in Delmastro describes materials in broad term that by definition include PC/ABS and polypropylene that are disclosed in Lines 44-45 of column 2”. Applicants again traverse this argument and respectfully request that the Examiner review the two paragraphs, which start at column 2, line 38 and end at column 2, line 58. The first of these paragraphs suggests materials suitable for use when the upper retainer 12 and the lower retainer 14 of Delmastro are made of the same material. The second of these paragraphs suggests the possible formation of the lower retainer 14 being formed of a different more elastic material, however, this more elastic material is never suggested to be PC/ABS nor polypropylene within that second paragraph. Thus, the combination of one panel being formed of PC/ABS while the other is formed of polypropylene is never suggested.

IV. New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 108-109 dependent upon independent claims 91 and 101. These claims encompass subject matter that was indicated allowable in conjunction with the subject matter of claim 84. Applicants request that the Examiner review these new claims to see if they too are allowable.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

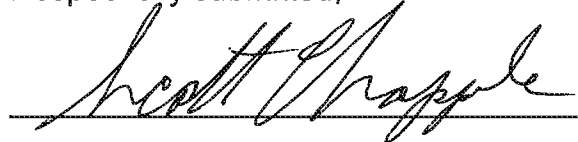
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1512 for any fee which may be due.

Dated: 23 May, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott Chapple", written over a horizontal line.

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